

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission

## § 26.23

(2) If alcohol has been consumed within this period, require a determination of fitness for duty by breath analysis or other means; and

(3) Require the establishment of controls and conditions under which a person who has been called-in can perform work, if necessary, although alcohol has been consumed. Consumption of alcohol during the abstinence period shall not by itself preclude a licensee from using individuals needed to respond to an emergency.

(f) The Commission may at any time review the licensee's written policy and procedures to assure that they meet the performance objectives of this part.

### **§ 26.21 Policy communications and awareness training.**

(a) Persons assigned to activities within the scope of this part shall be provided with appropriate training to ensure they understand—

(1) Licensee policy and procedures, including the methods that will be used to implement the policy;

(2) The personal and public health and safety hazards associated with abuse of drugs and misuse of alcohol;

(3) The effect of prescription and over-the-counter drugs and dietary conditions on job performance and on chemical test results, and the role of the Medical Review Officer;

(4) Employee assistance programs provided by the licensee; and

(5) What is expected of them and what consequences may result from lack of adherence to the policy.

(b) Initial training must be completed prior to assignment to activities within the scope of this part. Refresher training must be completed on a nominal 12 month frequency or more frequently where the need is indicated. A record of the training must be retained for a period of at least three years.

### **§ 26.22 Training of supervisors and escorts.**

(a) Managers and supervisors of activities within the scope of this part must be provided appropriate training to ensure they understand—

(1) Their role and responsibilities in implementing the program;

(2) The roles and responsibilities of others, such as the personnel, medical,

and employee assistance program staffs;

(3) Techniques for recognizing drugs and indications of the use, sale, or possession of drugs;

(4) Behavioral observation techniques for detecting degradation in performance, impairment, or changes in employee behavior; and

(5) Procedures for initiating appropriate corrective action, to include referral to the employee assistance program.

(b) Persons assigned to escort duties shall be provided appropriate training in techniques for recognizing drugs and indications of the use, sale, or possession of drugs, techniques for recognizing aberrant behavior, and the procedures for reporting problems to supervisory or security personnel.

(c) Initial training must be completed prior to assignment of duties within the scope of this part and within 3 months after initial supervisory assignment, as applicable. Refresher training must be completed on a nominal 12 month frequency, or more frequently where the need is indicated. A record of the training must be retained for a period of at least three years.

### **§ 26.23 Contractors and vendors.**

(a) All contractor and vendor personnel performing activities within the scope of this part for a licensee must be subject to either the licensee's program relating to fitness for duty, or to a program, formally reviewed and approved by the licensee, which meets the requirements of this part. Written agreements between licensees and contractors or vendors for activities within the scope of this part must be retained for the life of the contract and will clearly show that—

(1) The contractor or vendor is responsible to the licensee for adhering to the licensee's fitness-for-duty policy, or maintaining and adhering to an effective fitness-for-duty program; which meets the standards of this part; and

(2) Personnel having been denied access or removed from activities within the scope of this part at any nuclear power plant for violations of a fitness-for-duty policy will not be assigned to work within the scope of this part

without the knowledge and consent of the licensee.

(b) Each licensee subject to this part shall assure that contractors whose own fitness-for-duty programs are relied on by the licensee adhere to an effective program, which meets the requirements of this part, and shall conduct audits pursuant to § 26.80 for this purpose.

**§ 26.24 Chemical and alcohol testing.**

(a) To provide a means to deter and detect substance abuse, the licensee shall implement the following chemical testing programs for persons subject to this part:

(1) Testing within 60 days prior to the initial granting of unescorted access to protected areas or assignment to activities within the scope of this part.

(2) Unannounced drug and alcohol tests imposed in a statistically random and unpredictable manner so that all persons in the population subject to testing have an equal probability of being selected and tested. The tests must be administered so that a person completing a test is immediately eligible for another unannounced test. As a minimum, tests must be administered on a nominal weekly frequency and at various times during the day. Random testing must be conducted at an annual rate equal to at least 50 percent of the workforce.

(3) Testing for-cause, i.e., as soon as possible following any observed behavior indicating possible substance abuse; after accidents involving a failure in individual performance resulting in personal injury, in a radiation exposure or release of radioactivity in excess of regulatory limits, or actual or potential substantial degradations of the level of safety of the plant if there is reasonable suspicion that the worker's behavior contributed to the event; or after receiving credible information that an individual is abusing drugs or alcohol.

(4) Follow-up testing on an unannounced basis to verify continued abstinence from the use of substances covered under this part.

(b) Testing for drugs and alcohol, at a minimum, must conform to the "Guidelines for Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs," issued by the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission and appearing in appendix A to this part, hereinafter referred to as the NRC Guidelines. Licensees, at their discretion, may implement programs with more stringent standards (e.g., lower cutoff levels, broader panel of drugs). All requirements in this part still apply to persons who fail a more stringent standard, but do not test positive under the NRC Guidelines. Management actions must be the same with the more stringent standards as if the individual had failed the NRC standards.

(c) Licensees shall test for all substances described in paragraph 2.1(a) of the NRC Guidelines. In addition, licensees may consult with local law enforcement authorities, hospitals, and drug counseling services to determine whether other substances with abuse potential are being used in the geographical locale of the facility and the local workforce. When appropriate, other substances so identified may be added to the panel of substances for testing. Appropriate cutoff limits must be established by the licensee for these substances.

(d)(1) Licensees may conduct initial screening tests of an aliquot before forwarding selected specimens to a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provided the licensee's staff possesses the necessary training and skills for the tasks assigned, the staff's qualifications are documented, and adequate quality controls for the testing are implemented. Quality control procedures for initial screening tests by a licensee's testing facility must include the processing of blind performance test specimens and the submission to the HHS-certified laboratory of a sampling of specimens initially tested as negative. Except for the purposes discussed below, access to the results of preliminary tests must be limited to the licensee's testing staff, the Medical Review Officer (MRO), the Fitness-for-Duty Program Manager, and the employee assistance program staff, when appropriate.

(2) No individual may be removed or temporarily suspended from unescorted access or be subjected to other administrative action based solely on an unconfirmed positive result from any